

February 12, 1975

PRESIDENT: Yes sir.

SENATOR KREMER: We are now back on General File and will be dealing with Committee amendments. Has the Chair now interpreted the Rule that Senator Lewis referred to this morning and ruled that no amendment can be made to a Committee amendment. It either has to be approved or disapproved. Is this right? We don't want to run into the same thing we did this morning now.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Senator Lewis brought up a question as to whether a specific amendment can be brought up before or after the Committee amendments and I said that I thought Senator Lewis was right but his point of order was not timely and we had some discussion about that. I think technically the Rules do provide that you take up Committee amendments first and amend with specific amendments. It is my personal view that it is more orderly to do it the other way. I will have to tell you that the Chair is going to continue to do it that way but at the same time, if there are more Senator Lewis' around to raise a point of order on occasion, I'll probably have to sustain the points of order, if they are timely made.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that we know what we can do and cannot do with Committee amendments. Now can they...you are saying they can be amended now?

PRESIDENT: Yes, they can. The question is the order in which they are taken up. Now there is another Rule that probably puts Senator Lewis' position in a little doubt, but the real question that Senator Lewis brought up is not whether you can amend a Committee report or a Committee amendment but the order that they are taken up.

SENATOR KREMER: Would you give us that order as you see it now?

PRESIDENT: Well, I think it has been the history of this body, certainly in the last five weeks, that amendments to the Committee amendments are taken up first and then the Committee amendment. There is some doubt as to whether or not that is the correct interpretation and Senator Lewis brought up a point of order out of time but had he brought it up in time, I am afraid I would have sustained him but it seems to me that it works more logically, if the amendments to the Committee amendments are brought up first, but the Chair is here to move business along, not to impede it.

SENATOR KREMER: I certainly hate to delay our action at this time but I thought it would be good if we would make a determination here. Now we have always done it this way. We've allowed amendments to the Committee amendment when we discuss them. Now if we are going to do that, that's fine. If not, it's fine.

PRESIDENT: I think it is more logical, it's more expeditious and the Chair will continue to do that but the specter of a Frank Lewis is always there. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, Mr. Chairman, let me just enunciate on that just a minute and I appreciate your comments. I am going to take them in the vein, I am sure, in which they were given. The point on all of it, in terms of what the Rule says,